

# The Man Who Listened to the Stars

*A Tribute to R. Murray Schafer*

Listen to the music of the stars, he said

A hundred billion billion notes of light

Resonant spiral galaxies

Astral arpeggios

A luminous cosmic composition

Proclaiming

Miracle

Miracle

Miracle

Follow the thread of star-music, he said

Give back reverence for radiance

Give back light for light

Drumming at the edge of magic

Riding thunder across the sky

Chanting a pathway to holiness

Learning the language of wind

Dancing the body past fervour

Partnering with prayer

Give back reverence for radiance

Give back light for light

Call it mystery

Call it sacred mystery

Call it Patria

Call it home

But midst the marvel discord sounds

There's anguish in the forest

The trees are falling fast to the blade

The rivers are writhing with toxins

And animals lost with the loss of the wild

Desolation sings descant over the world

Hold fast to the thread of star-music, he said

Hold fast to the star-song of wonder

The melody of healing

Be a voice for the trees... exuberance in your lungs

Be a voice for the rivers... rapids in your bloodstream

Be a voice for the animals... wild with the animal in you

The miracle is not lost

Tune your senses to the world around you

To the east

Dawn unfurls a scroll of golden calligraphy

To the south

Blackberries astonish the mouth with the taste of sun

To the west

Twilight pours molten sky into lake reflection

To the north

Balsam enchants the air with a fragrant spell

As above so below

A luminous cosmic composition

The miracle is not lost

Listen to the music of the stars, he said

Ecstatic listening

That can change your life

Ecstatic living

On earth

And elsewhere

Give back reverence for radiance

Give back light for light

Call it mystery

Call it sacred mystery

Call it Patria

Call it home

Rae Crossman    August 2022